

Application No. 09/670,884

### REMARKS

Claims 1-18, 22, and 23 are pending.

Claims 1-9, 22, and 23 stand rejected.

Claims 10-18 are allowed.

### Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-9, 22, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by US 4, 841,518, which rejection is traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to further include a classifier wheel. Claim 22 has been amended to further include a classifier wheel.

Claims 1-9, 22, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by US 5,744,445, which rejection is traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to further include a classifier wheel. Claim 22 has been amended to further include a classifier wheel. further comprising an upper solid surface and a lower surface defining a first concentric circular opening therein and a plurality of blade vanes connecting the upper surface to the lower surface. The Examiner has indicated on page 7 of the official action under "Allowable Subject Matter" that "[N]one of the cited references teach a classifier wheel that has upper and lower surfaces connected by vanes...".

Claims 1-9, 22, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by US 3,879,980, which rejection is traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to further include a classifier wheel. Claim 22 has been amended to further include a classifier wheel further comprising an upper solid surface and a lower surface defining a first concentric circular opening

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therein and a plurality of blade vanes connecting the upper surface to the lower surface. The Examiner has indicated on page 7 of the official action under "Allowable Subject Matter" that "[N]one of the cited references teach a classifier wheel that has upper and lower surfaces connected by vanes...".

Claims 1-8, 22, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by US d30995, which rejection is traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to further include a classifier wheel. Claim 22 has been amended to further include a classifier wheel further comprising an upper solid surface and a lower surface defining a first concentric circular opening therein and a plurality of blade vanes connecting the upper surface to the lower surface. The Examiner has indicated on page 7 of the official action under "Allowable Subject Matter" that "[N]one of the cited references teach a classifier wheel that has upper and lower surfaces connected by vanes...".

Claims 1-9, 22, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by US 5,522,706, which rejection is traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to further include a classifier wheel. Claim 22 has been amended to further include a classifier wheel further comprising an upper solid surface and a lower surface defining a first concentric circular opening therein and a plurality of blade vanes connecting the upper surface to the lower surface. The Examiner has indicated on page 7 of the official action under "Allowable Subject Matter" that "[N]one of the cited references teach a classifier wheel that has upper and lower surfaces connected by vanes...".

Claims 1-9, 22, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by US 5,633,856, which rejection is traversed.

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Claim 1 has been amended to further include a classifier wheel. Claim 22 has been amended to further include a classifier wheel further comprising an upper solid surface and a lower surface defining a first concentric circular opening therein and a plurality of blade vanes connecting the upper surface to the lower surface. The Examiner has indicated on page 7 of the official action under "Allowable Subject Matter" that "[N]one of the cited references teach a classifier wheel that has upper and lower surfaces connected by vanes....".

Claims 1-7, 22, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by US d32,793, which rejection is traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to further include a classifier wheel. Claim 22 has been amended to further include a classifier wheel further comprising an upper solid surface and a lower surface defining a first concentric circular opening therein and a plurality of blade vanes connecting the upper surface to the lower surface. The Examiner has indicated on page 7 of the official action under "Allowable Subject Matter" that "[N]one of the cited references teach a classifier wheel that has upper and lower surfaces connected by vanes....".

Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 22, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US 5,899,396, submitted in the recently filed IDS, not made of record until said submission of said IDS.

Claim 1 has been amended to further include a classifier wheel. Claim 22 has been amended to further include a classifier wheel further comprising an upper solid surface and a lower surface defining a first concentric circular opening therein and a plurality of blade vanes connecting the upper surface to the lower surface. The Examiner has indicated on page 7 of the official action under "Allowable Subject Matter" that "[N]one of the cited references teach a classifier wheel that has upper and lower surfaces connected by vanes....".

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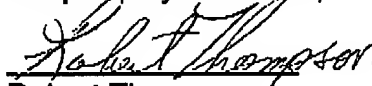
**Allowable Subject Matter**

Claims 10-18 are allowed.

The application and claims are believed to be in a condition for allowance in their present form and which allowance is respectfully requested.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is hereby authorized to call Applicant's Attorney, Robert Thompson, at Telephone Number (585) 423-2050, Rochester, New York.

Respectfully submitted,



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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE:**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Thrice Amended) An article comprising:

a classifier wheel;

a disk defining a concentric circular opening; and

a fastener for concentrically attaching the disk to a particle outlet opening of the [a] classifier wheel and wherein said article is fixed to the lower surface defining a second concentric circular opening within the first concentric circular opening and reduces a diameter of the first concentric circular opening.

22. (Thrice Amended) An apparatus [kit] comprising:

a classifier wheel;

a disk defining a concentric circular opening; and

at least one fastener adapted to attach the disk to a particle outlet opening of the [a] classifier wheel wherein said classifier wheel further comprises an upper solid surface and a lower surface defining a first concentric circular opening therein and a plurality of blade vanes connecting the upper surface to the lower surface.